ENVS 301 01W

Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement

Courses Syllabus: Spring, 2026

Instructor: Dr. Lin Guo
Office location: Science building 353
Email: Lin.Guo@etamuc.edu
Office hr: 8:00–5:00 pm online M-F
Classroom: Web based class
Time: 1/12/2026 -5/8/2026

Text Book: No book is required. The teaching materials or link of resources are provided in D2L.

Course Description: This course provides an overview of risk assessments (ecological risk assessment and human health risk assessment) and environmental impact statements. Students engage in projects related to risk assessments based on an existing abandoned hazardous waste site on EPA's National Priorities List and environmental impact statement based on a hypothetical government agency project proposal.

Instructional Method: Online course with lecture, report/case study, and project assignment

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define risk assessment and its core principles
2. Outline the process for conducting ecological risk assessments.
3. Explain the process for human health risk assessments
4. Define Environmental Impact Statements and their purpose.
5. Describe the key steps and regulatory process for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement.

Evaluations:

3 quizzes	300 points	A≥90%
2 Projects	200 points	B⩾80%
Total	500 points	C⩾70%

The three quizzes will cover the lectures of three topics: ecological risk assessment, human health risk assessment and environmental impact statements.

Project 1: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):
Students will be assigned a hypothetical development project, then write a section of the report describing and analyzing its potential environmental impacts. **Due on Mar 6th**

Project 2: Ecological Risk Assessment (Superfund Site):
Students will conduct an ecological risk assessment for a selected Superfund site to write a short report which mainly involves:
(1) Site Selection & Description: Choosing an existing Superfund site and providing a brief overview.
(2) Hazard & Receptor Identification: Listing the primary contaminants of concern and identifying the key ecological receptors.
(3) Conceptual Model Development: Creating a Conceptual Model illustrating the pathways linking contaminants to ecological receptors.
(4) Exposure and Effects Characterization: Outlining approaches for characterizing contaminant exposure levels and their potential ecological effects. **Due on May 8th**
More details about the two projects will be announced on D2L.

Topics and schedule:

Jan 12-16: National Environmental Policy Act
Jan 19-23: Overview of Environmental Assessment EA
Jan 26-30: Overview of Environmental Impact Statement EIS
Feb 2-6: Case study of EA and EIS Quiz 1
Feb 9-Mar 6: Human health Risk Assessment
Feb 9-13: Overview of risk assessment
Basic terms in Human health risk assessment
Feb 16-20: Planning and dose-response assessment
Feb 23-27 Exposure assessment and risk characterization
Mar 2-6: Case study of human health risk assessment Quiz 2
Mar 16-May 8: Ecological risk assessment
Mar 16-27: Overview and process of Ecological risk assessment
Mar 30-Apr 3: Endpoint and Conceptual Model
Apr 6-10: Analyze Phanse
Apr 13-17: Ecological Effects Characterization
Apr 20-24: Risk characterization
Apr 27-May 8: Case study of ecological risk assessment Quiz 3

University Procedures:

Attendance:

The teaching/learning materials will be posted in D2L. Students have access to those materials anytime. However, all the assignments and quizzes are expected to be finished on time.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities.

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServ ices/

Academic Integrity:

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Nondiscrimination Notice:

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

Campus carry rules:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Technology Requirement

D2L Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using D2L, the learning management system used by East Texas A&M University. To get started with the course, go to myLeo, then select Apps, and then select myleo online (D2L Brightspace).

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course, please contact me via email or office time. Generally, emails will be answered within 24 hrs. If I can not answer emails on time, I will let you know

in advance.

AI Statement

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty
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